UAAACT Equipment Loans and UAAACT Service
for Charter Schools

All public schools in Utah, including charter schools, have access to UAAACT equipment for the purpose of assessing the assistive technology needs of their students. UAAACT equipment is generally loaned for a 30 day period to help the IEP team determine if a student needs assistive technology to benefit from their educational program. If the equipment is determined by the IEP team to be necessary for the student's educational program, charter schools may be required by IDEA regulations to purchase the equipment for the student at the end of the assessment period.

There are three possible options charter schools might consider for access to UAAACT equipment.

Option 1 – Charter schools may borrow equipment from the UAAACT Equipment Library and use staff at The Computer Center to assist them with AT evaluations. This is the service model used for school districts (Wayne and Tintic) that are so small they do not have direct access to a UAAACT team.

    1. To access UAAACT services, charter schools need to follow general procedures as outlined in the UAAACT Manual. (Especially Student Assessment Procedures as outlined on pages 5-8 of the manual and the UAAACT Equipment Policy on page 12 of Appendix). There may be some procedures that don't apply. This manual can be found at www.uaaact.org

    2. It is important that the assessment procedure is followed, including the formal report (page 8 of manual). The assessment needs to be done by a multidisciplinary team. Parents are an important part of this team. If the student has had a UAAACT evaluation, you may want to contact the UAAACT team that conducted the evaluation and request a copy of the student's UAAACT report. If you are able to secure a UAAACT report, your team may determine that another evaluation is not necessary. If your IEP team agrees with the findings in the UAAACT student report, you may implement the suggestions.

    3. The individuals borrowing UAAACT equipment must have an understanding of how to use that equipment so that it is used properly. Training is available at The Computer Center. Make arrangements with Craig Boogaard at 801-887-9533 or cboogaar@utah.gov

    4. When equipment is borrowed, the borrowing school is responsible to meet the terms of the borrowing agreement. Specifically, schools must return the equipment in good working condition with all components in tact or they are responsible to replace or repair the item borrowed.

    5. The LEA or designee will be the requesting party for UAAACT equipment and the services of the staff at The Computer Center.

Option 2 – Charter schools may contract with an existing UAAACT team to request an assistive technology evaluation.
UAAACT teams have trained assistive technology experts who have access to a large equipment lending library. Charter schools using this option would pay for the services

of an existing team by contracting with the UAAACT team members' school district. Since the team has access to equipment for assessment purposes, there would be no expense for the equipment used in the UAAACT student assessment. However, when equipment is borrowed, the borrowing school is responsible to meet the terms of the borrowing agreement. Schools must return the equipment in good working condition with all components in tact or they are responsible to replace or repair the item borrowed.

Option 3 - Charter schools may join together to create one UAAACT team that would serve the students of charter schools state-wide. If a UAAACT team is established for charter schools, all charter schools would receive UAAACT services from this team and not through options one and two above.

Requirements for having a Charter Schools UAAACT team:

1. Charter schools would need to select individuals who could comprise a multidisciplinary team. This includes at least four (up to six) individuals to serve on the team. UAAACT teams have at least one speech language pathologist, one special education teacher, one motor assessment specialist (occupational therapist or physical therapist) and others as appropriate, such as school psychologist, administrator, technology expert, or additional special education teachers and speech language pathologists.

2. Charter schools would agree to release the selected UAAACT team members from their regular school assignment two days per month to participate in UAAACT related student evaluations, student follow-up services and UAAACT training.

3. Charter Schools would cover the travel costs of charter school UAAACT members as they participate in UAAACT evaluations, follow-up services and in-state UAAACT training.

4. Charter Schools combining to compose a UAAACT team would need to make a written request for a UAAACT team by December 20, 2007 to have their requested added to the UAAACT Grant budget for the 2008-09 school year. The request should include the names and disciplines of the proposed UAAACT team members, the names of the Charter Schools to be served by the proposed UAAACT team, and a commitment to meet the requirements noted above. Send the request to:

UAAACT Leadership Council
c/o Craig Boogaard
The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities
1595 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Phone: 801-887-9533
Fax: 801-887-9382

E-mail: cboogaar@utah.gov

5. If a charter schools UAAACT team is established and that team becomes inactive (evaluates 0 students in a given school year), the charter schools will return their UAAACT team equipment to the UAAACT central inventory.

Benefits to having a Charter School UAAACT team include:

1- UAAACT teams have access to a large lending library of equipment that has been established with IDEA funds over many years of UAAACT services. These AT products are for assessment purposes. UAAACT members use the equipment with students for 30 days to determine if the equipment makes a positive difference in the student's educational program.

2- UAAACT teams receive a basic assistive technology assessment kit with approximately $5000 worth of equipment. The kit includes a laptop computer, basic software and simple AAC devices.

3- UAAACT teams receive an annual team equipment budget of $500 to $3000. The budget is calculated on a formula which factors in the number of students served by the UAAACT team and the number of hours of UAAACT team members service to students.

4- Based on the skill level of UAAACT team members, UAAACT teams receive an annual team training budget to support in depth assistive technology training. Level one UAAACT members generate $250/year, Level 2 members generate $500/year, and level 3 members generate $750/year. Funds can be used to contract with assistive technology experts for training locally, or to send UAAACT members to national assistive technology conferences such as Closing the Gap, CSUN or ATIA.